post office at Lemalo in Cuttack disriJct has been upgraded to departmental sub pest office since Storch 1993 in Orissa. District-wise details *cS.* extra departmental branch post offices are given in the statement (see below).

(b) There are 240 gram Panchayats ot different districts in the State of Orissa without extra departmental branch post office, post Offices are opened in the-gram Panchayat subject to fulfilment ot departmental |iorms tend availability of resources.

STATEMENT

District-wise deiails of extra Departmental Branch POs opened so far in Orissa Circle, under Annual Plan 1993-94

Sl. No. Name o f District	Name of extra deprtmental branch post offices opened
1 .K oraput	1. Chipahhar 2. Sudabari 3. Aunli
2. Kalahandi	1. Birikote 2. Badabafal 3. Malkandel 4. Sirmaska
3. Nowrangapur	1. Kumuli 2. Dalbeda 3. Chatiguda 4. Parachipada
4. Phulbani	1. Luising 2. Tekangia 3. Kajuri 4. Marlanga 5. Majhipada
5. Sundargarh	1. Sankraposhi

REGULARISATION OF EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL AGENTS

2504. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Ministe of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of extra-departmental agents as on date;

. (b) whether Government propose to regularise their services; and

(c) il so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor,

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THF. MINISTRY , OF . COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The number of Extra-departmental agents as on 31-3-1993, was 3,06,027.

(b) and (c) No Sir. The work load in ED post offices ranges between 2 and 5 hours a day. When the work, load exceeds the maximum prescribed limit of 5 hours a day, the feasibility of conversion of the ED post office into departmental post office is explored. Gfl conversion the

past office is manned by departmental employees of the approprislc cadre. The j ED Agents are paid a consolidated j monthly allowance determined with reference to the work load. In view of I the nature of the duties performed by them, they are treated as part-time agents of this department. Hence, it is not possible to regularise the services of ED Agents on whole-sale basis both on funnctional and economic considerafions. However, in view of their association with this department, they are accorded preferential treatment in the matter of recruitment in departmental Gr. 'D'|postmen cadres. Residuary vacancies pertaining to departmental quota in time scale clerical cadres are also offered te eligible ED Agents. Such of the ED Agents as get recruited in departmental cadres by successfully competing among themselves, automatically become eligible for all the facilities and privileges such as leave, pay scales, pension, gratuity, increments etc. as are available to the departmental employees.

TELEPHONB EXCHANGE AND P&T OFFICES IN RAJASTHAN

2505. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : WiU the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of post and telegraph offices as well as telephone exchanges functioning in Raiasthan, district-wise, as on 30th November, 1993;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more post and telegraph offices and telephone exctenges during 1993-94 and 1994-95 in various districts of Rajasthan, particularly in Jaipur;

(c) if so, the details thereof, district-wise and category-wise, and the steps taken by Govenanent during the last two years to increase the number of such offices; and

(d) whether Government propose *to give* some exchanges of the Department of Telecommunications in Rajasthan, on tease to the private sector, if so the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TUB MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) 10287 port offices and 1914 telegraph offices were functioning in Rajasthan as on 30-11-1995 district-wise details of which are given in statement I & II respectlively (see below).

Infonoation in respect of telephone exclumges is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) As per target assigned, 30 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 5 Deartmental Sub-Post Offices are to be opened in Rajasthan during 1993-94. Out of these 30 Extra Departmental Branch Post offices have already beea opened. District-wise details in this res-pect are given in statemeat-lll (See below). Details in respect of 3994-95 have not yet been finalised as state-wise tar-eets, for opening of Post offices are being fixed annually.

Information tn respect of telegraph offices and telephone exchanges to be opened in 1993-94 and 1994-95 is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) The information is also being collected and will be laid on the Table of I the House,